

**NORTHERN ALBERTA DIACONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

GENERAL BOARD MEETING -- Minutes

7:00 pm -- Thursday, June 6, 2019 at Lady Flower Gardens, Edmonton

Board Members & Advisors Present (Edmonton/North Region): Wilma McLaughlin (NADC Exec/First), Jesse Edgington (NADC Consultant/Centrepointe CRC), John Feddes (NADC Exec, Covenant), Quentin Nanninga (NADC exec), Ed Versluys (Edm The River) & Lucinda Klapwyk DMD (Edm/North & Inglewood).

Guest: Muriel Hogarth - from Lady Flower Gardens (Edmonton) with hosts Doug Visser and Kelly Mills.

Churches and Advisors NOT represented: Leduc, St. Albert, Barrhead, Edm. Bethel, NEW Community, The Avenue, Maranatha, Mosaic House, Fellowship, Trinity, West End, Hope Stony Plain, Edson, Cuba Connection, Martin Mobach (Pastoral Advisor), DMD Parkland vacant, WR and DRS.

1. **OPENING:** Welcome – Wilma McLaughlin
2. **DEVOTIONS:** – Jesse Edgington – NADC consultant – God made a Farmer video and land connection. Followed by a prayer walk/tour out around the gardens and old growth forest to the North Saskatchewan River. (Lectio Tierra).
3. **INTRODUCTIONS:** All – What is your favourite part about deacon ministry? Members shared personal highlights.
4. **AGENDA:** Review and adopt agenda – any additions? None
5. **MINUTES:** adopt February 7, 2019 Board Minutes (p.2+3) – passed.
6. **BUSINESS:**
 - a. Lady Flower Gardens. (www.ladyflowergardens.com) We met in the beautiful setting of the gardens on the edge of the river and in the unique structure of the yurt. Muriel did a walk and talk tour of LFG to show and describe what they do in partnership with community organizations. They encourage learning, community development, restorative opportunity and effects with connection to the land. Many different groups come to the gardens and forest to have that connection, learn more and help with raising food for their communities and the Edmonton Food Bank. Thursday nights in the summer will offer open community times for anyone to register and come out to see and experience the gardens. There are many opportunities to make connection with LFG and offer a unique ministry in creation connection to churches. See the website and contact them for more. One immediate need that churches could connect with them about would be a permanent shade structure like a gazebo.
 - b. NADC 2020 budget proposal - no revisions, to submit to classis treasurer.
 - c. NADC ministry review survey – would be easier to look at with more time or in digital format. Jesse will email the word document format for deacons to look at and discuss, as well as a link for a Survey Monkey online version if people prefer that.
 - d. Deacon mentoring – Ideas of what is done in the various churches were shared, strengths and challenges were discussed and there are ideas of practical resources within churches that can be shared to others looking to develop it further.
 - e. Quest Mexico learning – Jesse will put this on the website as a blog post.
www.classisalbertanorth.ca/nadc

7. REPORTS:

- a. World Renew - Ray Prins/Peter Bulthuis - Watch for Joint Ministry Committee (JMC) meetings that are coming in September on the 27th & 28th. There will be a time for engagement for deacons and WR ambassadors, so save the date if interested.
- b. Disaster Relief Services – Gary Duthler/Henry Visscher
- c. Refugee Sponsorship news – DOE 2019 will have refugee and hospitality theme. Churches will have a role in sharing, telling stories and participating in the day. Speakers will include Lewis Cardinal, Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo, Rebecca Walker and Jennifer Henry (among others for workshops). Watch for announcements and early bird registration later in the summer.
- d. Diaconal Ministries Developer's – Lucinda Klapwyk (Edmonton and North) South/Central still looking for their next DMD, Lucinda is filling in when and where she can. She is looking to visit North churches over the summer, is wrapping up the last coffee visits for the summer and continues to develop the material around care and conversation with seniors.
- e. DMC Regional Ministry Developer – Rachel Vroege – Operation Manna has changed to New Ground and the new information and campaign has been sent to churches and is available on the website. Contact Rachel for more and also look for new initiatives going along with the new name. www.diaconalministries.com
- f. Diaconal Ministries Canada Board – Norm Haayema
- g. Cuba Connection – John Strikwerda
- h. NADC Consultant – Jesse Edgington – NADC exec members needed. – Jesse talked about the Walking for Common Ground event that was ongoing and had just progressed from Maskwacis to Ponoka, Lacombe and on to Red Deer the next day. It is an opportunity to walk as allies with the Indigenous community and build relationship and understanding of living as treaty people. He reminded churches that he is also willing to facilitate the Living the 8th Fire material in a variety of formats to deacons or church groups.

8. CARING AND SHARING:

Sharing joys and concerns – Examples of current joys and activities were shared. Edmonton First holds an early summer community garage sale that the community watches for and asks about each year. Covenant continues with their successful community gardens, seniors' teas and this summer are going to host a VBS with a theme around creation care that was developed by ARocha. The River's Social Justice Initiative team will host an event on human trafficking this year on September 15th, save the date and watch for more details to come. Their Christmas with Style event was a huge success and is planned for next year again already. They will be looking for more stylists, clothing donations and are inviting other churches to help if interested. Connect with the office for more details on that. CentrepoinTE continues to develop its Children's worship and nature space with additions of birdhouses, a cherry tree and perennial plants.

9. CLOSING Prayer: Next meeting date: October 3, 2019

Common Abbreviations: CAN: Classis AB North. CIC: Classical Interim Committee. DOE: Day of Encouragement.

DMC: Diaconal Ministries Canada. DMD: Diaconal Ministries Developer. OM: Operation Manna. WR: World Renew.

DRS: Disaster Response Services.